

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <https://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 1 – Sunday Before the Nativity
Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ | The Holy Fathers
Greatmartyr Anastasia “Deliver from Bonds” (ca. 304)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Reader – Mark Klus Reader – David Pellack
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Today: ADVENT BAZAAR! Today is the Final Day!!
ATTENTION PARISHIONERS---If you brought something for the Bazaar & it wasn't purchased, please take it back with you. The church does not have the room to store extra items anymore
- Tuesday: December 24 – Eve of the Nativity of Christ!
Great Complines and Matins (Condensed Version)
Time: **3:00PM**
- Wednesday: December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am
From Christmas Day until January 4, inclusive, there is a general dispensation from all fasting!
- Saturday: December 28 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM**
- Sunday: December 29 – Sunday after the Nativity of Christ
Reading of Hours – 9:30am
Divine Liturgy – **10:00am** **[FINAL SUNDAY AT THIS TIME]**
Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow the Divine Liturgy

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

Troparion (Tone 2 – Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; / and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion (Tone 4 – Forefeast)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! / Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! / Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; / if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. // Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Kontakion (Tone 1 – Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! / The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. / The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, // and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Kontakion (Tone 3 – Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave / to give birth to the Eternal Word. / Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! / Glorify with the angels and the shepherds // the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Prokeimenon (Tone 4 – Songs of our Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!
v. For Thou are just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday Before)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. And what more shall I say?

[...continue Epistle reading on the back of page 8...]

- v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
 Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright! Alleluia (3x's)



Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements

Beginning on January 5, 2025 – Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM!!

During the Fall Parish Meeting held on Sunday, November 17, a motion was passed that beginning in 2025 (starting on Sunday, January 5), Sunday Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30AM 'ALL YEAR ROUND' (no more switching back and forth from 9AM to 10AM between summer and winter hours). This schedule time change is for Sunday Divine Liturgy ONLY! The superior has the discretion for the time when services held during the week. The only exception will be on Easter (Pascha) Sunday which will still be served with procession, Matins, & Divine Liturgy beginning at 8:30AM.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's 2024 Nativity Letter Now Available

To read his Nativity Letter, please visit the following link on the OCA website:

<https://www.oca.org/holy-synod/statements/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon/nativity-of-our-lord-2024>

Information on Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

On Friday, December 13, it was the 41st anniversary of the falling asleep of Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann. Our Matushka Jan Kozcak last week mentioned a website dedicated specifically to Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann. The website link is <https://schmemmann.org>

The **61st Annual Diocesan Assembly** will be held on Thursday, January 23 and Friday, January 24, 2025 at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE. If you are interested in attending as a Lay Delegate to represent the parish or attend just as an Assembly observer, please speak with Father Mark or Parish President Matthew Andrews. Thank You.

The 4th Annual FOCA 'Virtual' Christmas Concert streamed via YouTube

On Wednesday, December 25, 2024, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will present a National "Virtual" Christmas Concert. Parish Choirs throughout the United States have been invited to participate in this event by sending in a pre-recorded video of them singing Liturgical and Carol Christmas music. As of the printing of this bulletin, a time has yet to be determined when the concert will be available to view.

Please check the FOCA's YouTube channel at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9yPeZIKg5JZUj1n5mgDYRA> or
or <https://www.youtube.com/@F.O.C.A.>

or search YouTube using Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Father Mark offered by Nina Patterson
Natalie Patterson-Nedbal & her unborn child offered by Nina Patterson

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Eleanor Fecanin offered by the Reader David Pellack
Eleanor Fecanin, Ronald A., Emily, Albert offered by Catherine Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 12/15/24

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Please remember in your prayers:

Father Mark Kozak; Natalie Patterson-Nedbal and her unborn child; Darren Bodnar; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Sheba Patton; Fania Wanenchak and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Announcements (cont.)

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

*******Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon*******

In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.

Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (December)

<u>Week of Sun Dec 8 to Sat Dec 14</u>	<u>December Month to Date</u>
Attendance: 29	28 (average)
Funds In: \$ 3,246.00	\$ 4,385.00
Funds Out: (\$ 139.49) [reimbursement]	\$ 4,079.11
Net Surplus/(Deficit): \$ 3,385.49	\$ 305.89

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

2024 Monthly/Quarterly Schedule

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 4th Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Dec 22)</u>	<u>Next Week (Dec 29)</u>
3 rd Hour:	Reader David Pellack	Reader Mark Klus
6 th Hour:	Reader Mark Klus	Reader David Pellack
Epistle:	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich	Reader Mark Klus

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in January 2025

Sunday, January 5, 2025 – Eve of Theophany Services with Great Complines | Matins (modified) | Blessing of the Water.
Time: After Fellowship Coffee Hour - Approximately 12:00PM.
[Strick Fast Day]

Monday, January 6, 2025 – Theophany of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
Time: 10:00AM.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – 86th Annual Novogodny Ball, Philadelphia, PA
Presented by Saint Stephen's OCF, A semi-formal dinner dance for the benefit of deserving Orthodox Christian charities. New Venue and Lower Prices This Year!!!
To learn more and for details, please visit their website: www.novogodnyball.com

Friday, January 24, 2025 – March For Life in Washington, D.C.
To learn more and for details, please visit the OCA website: www.oca.org

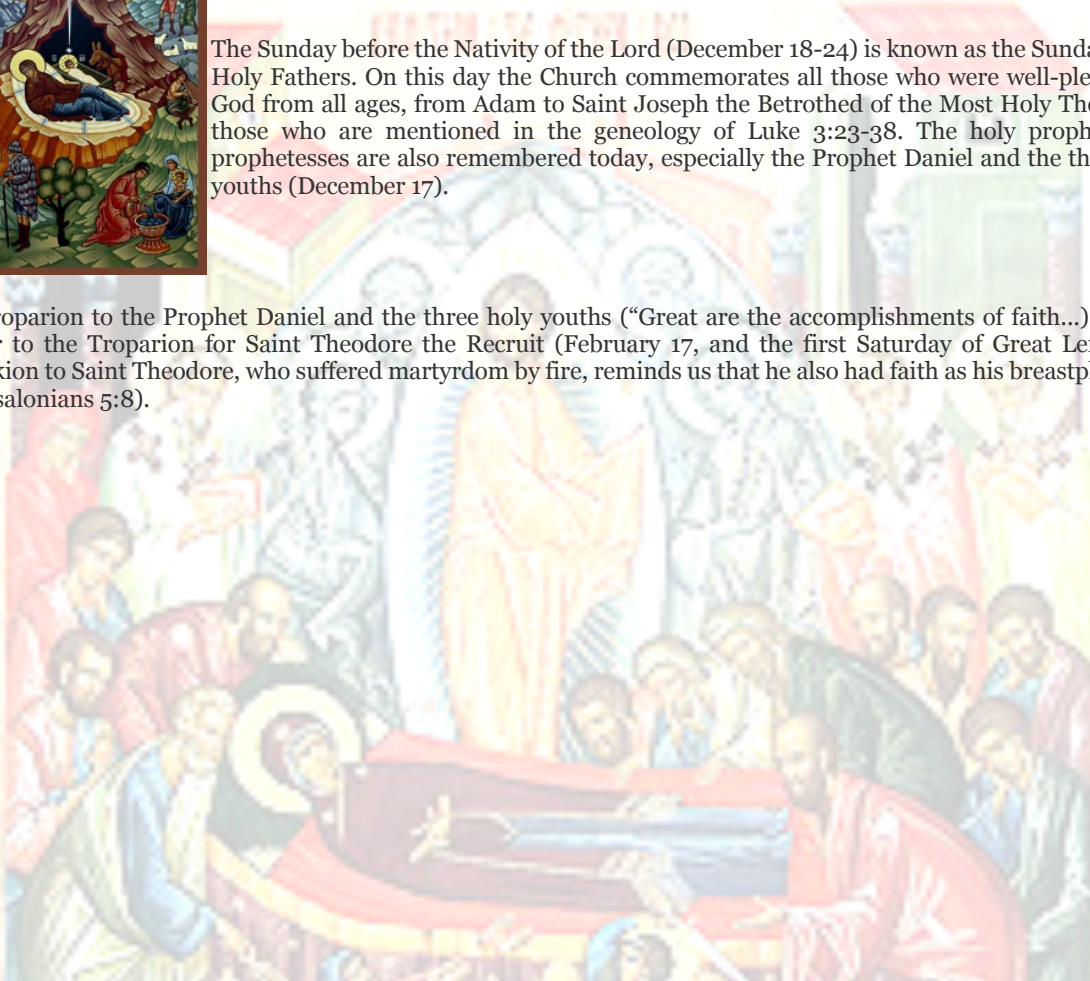
The **Annual Parish Meeting** is scheduled to be held sometime either the last Sunday in January or one of the first two Sunday's in February 2025.



Sunday Before the Nativity [December 22nd]

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (“Great are the accomplishments of faith...”) is quite similar to the Troparion for Saint Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).



[...Epistle Reading continued from page 2...]

For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 4)